

Typical canopy trees are tuliptree, water oak (*Quercus nigra*), willow oak, red maple, sweetgum, white oak (*Q. alba*), and northern red oak (*Q. rubra*). The diverse subcanopy features sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), American hornbeam, and American holly (*Ilex opaca*) as common components. Typical shrubs are southern arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) and bigleaf snowbell (*Styrax grandifolia*). The diverse herb layer contains species such as partridge-berry (*Mitchella repens*), running-cedar (*Lycopodium flabelliforme*), muscadine (*Vitis rotundifolia*), and Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*). The Significantly Rare Lewis's heartleaf (*Hexastylis lewisii*) is fairly common in this community.

The natural area is probably important for nesting songbirds; however, the site survey was done too late in summer to adequately sample the nesting bird fauna. Likewise, the pools are presumably important sites for amphibian breeding. A good population of the locally uncommon Appalachian brown (*Satyroides appalachia*) butterfly is present near the pools.

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT: The site is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Jordan Lake) and is managed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission as the Jordan Game Land. There is no official protection for the natural area, however. The natural area is worthy of protection on the Registry of Natural Heritage Areas, and the Chatham County portion has been proposed for this status (as it was already identified in the earlier Jordan Lake inventory).

A gasline cuts across the floodplain just above Wimberley Road, which also crosses the floodplain. An abandoned railroad grade also bisects the floodplain near this road. There are relatively few exotic species in the bottomland, at least as compared with bottomlands elsewhere in the county. No other utility crossings of the floodplain – such as gaslines, powerlines, and sewerlines – should be made.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES: Piedmont/Low Mountain Alluvial Forest, Floodplain Pool, Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest (Floodplain variant)

RARE PLANTS: Lewis's heartleaf (*Hexastylis lewisii*)

REFERENCES:

- LeGrand, H.E., Jr. 1999. B. Everett Jordan Lake Project: Inventory for Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species and Natural Community Inventory. N.C. Natural Heritage Program, DPR, DENR, Raleigh, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Wilmington District.
- LeGrand, H.E., Jr. 2002. Site survey report: Jordan Lake – White Oak Creek Floodplain. N.C. Natural Heritage Program, DPR, DENR, Raleigh.